

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 5-21, 23, 24, 27, and 29 and cancel Claim 30 as indicated below, without prejudice or disclaimer to continued examination on the merits.

1. (Currently Amended): A method of establishing a path for data transmissions in a network device having a plurality of port cards, a plurality of forwarding cards and a cross-connection card for providing a plurality of possible paths between the port cards and the forwarding cards, the method comprising:

defining a configuration policy designating internal connection paths within the network device between the port cards and the forwarding cards, and

utilizing said configuration policy to configure ~~said~~ the cross-connection card for establishing said internal connection paths between the port cards and the forwarding cards for transmitting packetized payload data therebetween,

wherein the cross-connection card transmits said packetized payload data without examining destination-related header information contained within said packetized payload data.

2. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the configuration policy comprises a configuration policy file stored within the network device.

3. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 2, wherein the configuration policy file is stored within a configuration database within the network device.

4. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the configuration policy may be dynamically changed within the system while the system network device continues to operate.

5. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

changing established internal connection paths through the network device based upon a the configuration policy and changing resource needs.

6. (Currently Amended): A method of establishing a path for data transmissions in a network device having a plurality of possible paths through a cross-connection card, the method comprising:

establishing internal connection paths through the cross-connection card based upon a configuration policy,

wherein the cross-connection card transmits the data transmissions without examining destination-related header information contained within the data transmissions.

7. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 6 ~~wherein the method further comprises, further comprising:~~

applying the configuration policy based on available device resources and needs at a given time.

8. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 6 ~~wherein the method further comprises, further comprising:~~

creating a table in a configuration database to provide connection information to the device.

9. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 8, wherein the step of creating a table further comprises creating a path table.

10. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 8, wherein the step of creating a table further comprises creating a service endpoint table.

11. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 8 ~~wherein the method further comprises, further comprising:~~

establishing a partial record in a service end point table when a user connects to a particular port on a universal port card in the system.

12. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 11 ~~wherein the method further comprises, further comprising:~~

sending a notification based on the partial record to a policy provisioning manager.

13. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 6 ~~wherein the method further comprises, further comprising:~~

implementing a connection policy based on a comparison of at least one new path characteristic with available resources on a forwarding card.

14. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 13, wherein the comparison step further comprises comparing a desired number of time slots with available forwarding card resources.

15. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 13, wherein the comparison step further comprises comparing a desired number of virtual circuits with available forwarding card resources.

16. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 6 ~~wherein the method further comprises, further comprising:~~

storing configuration table settings in persistent storage to ensure that the configuration settings are maintained in the event of a system shut down.

17. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the network device comprises a router.

18. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 6, wherein the configuration policy comprises a configuration policy file stored within the network device.

19. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 18, wherein the configuration policy file is stored within a configuration database within the network device.

20. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 6, wherein the configuration policy may be dynamically changed within the network device while the network device continues to operate.

21. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 6, further comprising:
changing established internal connection paths based upon a the configuration policy and changing resource needs.

22. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 6, wherein the network device comprises a router.

23. (Currently Amended): A computer network device, comprising:
a cross-connection card comprising a plurality of programmable paths internal to ~~said~~ the computer network device;
a plurality of forwarding cards including a plurality of ports coupled to the cross-connection card;
a plurality of physical cards including a plurality of ports coupled to the cross-connection card;
a configuration policy file stored within the computer network device; and

a policy provisioning manager for programming the plurality of programmable paths using the configuration policy file,

wherein the plurality of the programmable paths connect particular ports of the forwarding cards with particular ports of the physical cards through the cross-connection card, and

wherein the cross-connection card transmits packetized payload data without examining destination-related header information contained within said packetized payload data.

24. (Currently Amended): The computer network device of claims 23, wherein the computer network device comprises a router.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Original): The method of claim 12, further comprising:
filling in the partial record with data from the policy provisioning manager.

27. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 6, further comprising:
implementing a connection policy to establish the path for data transmissions;
modifying the connection policy; and
using the modified connection policy to establish the path for data transmissions.

28. (Original): The method of claim 27, wherein the connection policy is stored in a configuration database.

29. (Currently Amended): In a network device comprising at least one port for receiving data from an external device, a plurality of forwarding systems for processing the received data and a cross-connection switch for coupling the port to the forwarding

systems, a method of establishing a path between said port and at least one of said forwarding systems, comprising:

defining a configuration policy for designating said port to at least one of said forwarding systems, and

utilizing said configuration policy to establish an internal connection path between said port and said at least one of said forwarding systems through the cross-connection switch,

wherein the cross-connection switch transmits packetized payload data without examining destination-related header information contained within said packetized payload data.

30. (Canceled)